

Bonds, Barry Bonds... and a little redemption



The Final Score

By STEVEN CHAVEZ
Sports editor

BARRY BONDS: So we start another week of sports talk with a familiar subject. Namely, Barry Bonds.

Mr. Bonds made a semi-triumphant return to the San Francisco Giants lineup on Monday night at Pac Bell, er, SBC Park against the division leading Padres of San Diego.

In a season series that saw the Giants lose 8 of the 10 games played, Bonds' return to the team after missing the first 5 1/2 months of the season has promptly turned the team around. The Giants have won the first two games of the series (the third had results after print time), but more importantly actually look like a team with some talent now.

Of course, having a September call-up to your team that has over 700 career home runs is a hell of an advantage over the other teams calling up potential spot players on their teams for next season.

With the two wins to start this series, the Giants have once again pulled into a second place tie with the Dodgers, just 5 games behind the Padres with 18 games left, including four against the Dodgers and five against the Padres.

In a division that features a 71-73 team in first place, it isn't too much of a stretch to think that the Giants could win four of the final five over the Padres, which would alone bring them to within just two games of the lead.

The Giants are hoping to have Jason Schmidt back on Saturday, meaning he would only miss two starts (both Giant victories). With Noah Lowry pitching well despite coming back to earth after a Godlike August and unbelievably good rookie sensation Matt Cain in the mix, the Giants have three starting pitchers that they can feel confident in.

Throw that in with Moises Alou coming back on Monday from his latest injury, Pedro Feliz moving positions again, likely to first base this time, and you have the lineup taking the field that Playboy (told you I read the articles too) picked to win the World Series this year.

Is Bonds' return too little, too late? We'll know within a few weeks. Check that, we'll know *this* week, because this is the last week that they would be able to do any real damage.

Think I'm being a homer or a biased reporter that holds his alliance with this local team? You'd be right, but mainly I'm just holding on to the final thread that says that I could be right when I said before the season began that the Giants would play the A's in the

Bay Bridge Series II.

Hold onto your hats Giants fans, it's going to be a fun week.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS: Wow! What a debut for new coach Mike Nolan and the "revamped" 49ers team. The 49ers defeated the St. Louis Rams 28-25 on Sunday, and in recently typical 49ers fashion, tried to give away the game at the end. They led by as many as 21 points in the second half yet it took an interception with less than a minute to go to seal the win.

Sunday's game was highlighted by veteran Bryant Young, whose three sack performance on Sunday led to him being named the NFC defensive player of the week for the third time in his great career, all while switching from defensive tackle (where he had played his entire career, dating back to his college days) to defensive end.

With this week's game against the Eagles and the injury to Donovan McNabb, the 49ers could possibly take the first two games of this season.

Couple that with games against the Cardinals, Cowboys and Colts and the lowly 49ers that won only two games last season could head into their bye week with a 4-1 or 3-2 record.

This would be a stretch and remarkable turnaround, indeed, but it would not be out of the question with today's NFL.

Hey, if you can go into week one and win half as many games in one week as you won last year you can't really count anything out.

OAKLAND RAIDERS: The Raiders went into Gillette Stadium to face the two-time defending champion Patriots and walked out losing by only 10 points.

Save a few mistakes on either side of the ball, this game could have been even closer or even swung in the Raiders direction.

The Raiders are an improved team, no doubt about it, on both sides of the ball, particularly their defense.

But if the Raider Nation has any hopes of seeing football in January, they have *got* to convince their players to stop killing themselves. The Raiders were, once again, victims of themselves, racking up 16 penalties for a *whopping* 149 yards.

You absolutely cannot do that in the NFL, you ruin your chance to beat a team that is better than you, like Thursday, but you'll also have a much harder time beating the teams that you're better than because you keep them in the game.

Coach after coach, year after year for the Raiders has been unable to install the discipline in the team to stop them from being one of the worst teams in the league in the penalty category.

Perhaps it's in the water on that side of the bay. Good ole' Mr. Davis should *really* look into a Brita filter, they work.

Lady Renegades soccer falls 1-0 to Cañada College on Tuesday

By NICK ZAMBRANO
Staff writer

Losing is a sour feeling for any athlete. It becomes more sour when that "L" could have easily been a "W" instead. If the Lady Renegades had up to sum up their 1-0 lost to Cañada on Tuesday, it would probably go a little something like this; close, but no cigar.

That cigar was within arm's, excuse me, leg's reach the whole game. Both teams played extremely hard and fast paced on both sides of the ball. It's no surprise that it was only 1-0 game.

Ohlone had plenty of opportunities to score but failed to capitalize on them. The ladies were 0 for 9 in scoring opportunities. "We had to play with depth out there, Cañada is a team that likes to play the long ball," said Ohlone Head Coach Larry Heslin.

Amanda Lopez stood her ground in the net blocking 4 out of the 5 shots Cañada took at her. Also stepping up big was the Renegade defense, who helped minimize the number of shots Lopez had to challenge.

At halftime, the game remained scoreless.

Going into the 2nd half, Heslin wanted his team to up their intensity more. The intensity was noticeable as the Ladies of Ohlone came



Photo by Daniel Kwan

A net full of Ohlone and Cañada players scramble after the ball in Ohlone's 1-0 loss on Tuesday.

out and kept the ball in the Cañada zone for a good amount of time. Showing all the heart for the team was their captain, Allie Hollendshead.

Hollendshead went down hard late in the 2nd half after chasing down a loose ball and colliding with a Cañada player. Everyone in the vicinity of the Ohlone soccer field was hushed as Hollendshead was tended to by sister, Ambur. Shaking it off like a trooper, Hollendshead, who has been banged up all season, stayed in the game and finished it out.

"She's a battler and a great person to have as a team captain," said

Heslin about Hollendshead.

Ohlone's intensity level proved to be effective as the Cañada players became frustrated and at one point received a red card for unsportsmanlike conduct. It seemed like the Lady Renegades had turned the game into their own.

The battle took its toll on both teams as they both showed signs of fatigue. Cañada, however took advantage of Ohlone's fatigue late in the second half and found the net for the game's only goal.

"They, unfortunately, out-worked us in the second half," said Heslin.

Women dominate the pool while men struggle in loss

By SARA KWAN
Staff writer

The Renegade men were on the short end of a high scoring water polo match against Modesto College on Wednesday. Fifteen seconds into the game, Modesto scored their first goal but Ohlone's Brandon McDowell came back to score one for the Renegades. McDowell was then forced to sit out for fouling, and with the five-on-six advantage, Modesto scored another goal to gain back the lead.

Modesto scored two more times in the first quarter but Casey Cordone of Ohlone made a back hand shot to give the Renegades another goal. Cordone continued his dominance by lobbing the ball in for another goal to open the second quarter and Luke Green tied the game with a goal.

That tie was not long-lived as Modesto scored a goal going into halftime. Modesto never looked back as they scored four more goals in a row in the third quarter to open the game up. Matt Van Derwerken scored the lone goal in the third for the Renegades with 40 seconds left.

Van Derwerken scored another goal to open the final quarter but Modesto came right back to get their advantage back. Cordone scored his third goal of the game, but again, Modesto scored a goal to keep up with the Renegades. After that, Modesto scored their twelfth

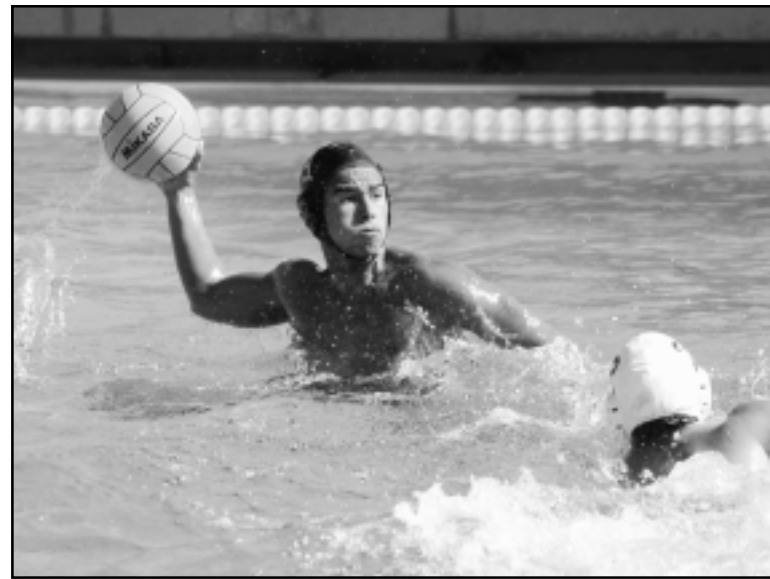


Photo by Daniel Kwan

Lance Green looks for an open shot during Ohlone's 12-7 loss to Modesto College. The women won 15-6.

and final goal of the game to seal the victory, 12-7.

Ohlone's women delivered in the first game of the inter-gender double header, destroying Modesto 15-6.

The Lady Renegades opened the game with Samantha Bogosian scoring the first goal. Traci Robertson scored a goal and Ashley Kendall followed with another. With Modesto still scoreless, Robertson scored a goal and Kat Ashley made it 5-0. Bogosian scored one more in the quarter to give Ohlone a six goal advantage.

Modesto scored their first goal in the second quarter but Melissa Rynd

countered with a goal for Ohlone. Modesto came back quickly with their second goal but Ashley and Jenny Galan put two more on the board for Ohlone before halftime.

In the second half, Rynd scored a goal 30 seconds into the quarter but Modesto scored on a penalty shot to give themselves one more goal. Galan, Bogosian and Allison Gibson each scored another goal in the third quarter to blow the game open 13-3.

The Renegades were playing defensive ball in the fourth quarter and allowed Modesto to score three more goals. Bogosian and Gibson scored one goal apiece in the quarter to deliver the final score.